

MASS. EA 10.2: B65

REGULATIONS

Boston Harbor Islands State Park

1. Boston Harbor Islands State Park is open from 9 a.m. to sunset.
2. Charcoal or fuel cooking stoves allowed only at designated picnic or camping sites. No open fires allowed on Georges Island. On other islands, wood fires allowed on beaches below high tide line. Bonfires prohibited.
3. Pets on leashes allowed on Gallops, Grape, Bumpkin, and Great Brewster Islands. Pets not allowed on Georges, Lovells, and Peddocks Islands.
4. Alcoholic beverages permitted at designated picnic or camping sites only. No alcohol allowed on Lovells Island. Alcohol use allowed only with MDC permit on Georges and Peddocks Islands.
5. Conduct which disturbs enjoyment of the islands by others is prohibited, including disorderly conduct and amplified sound.
6. Firearms prohibited.
7. Disturbing, removing, defacing, cutting, littering, or otherwise causing damage to a natural feature, sign, barrier, building or other property is prohibited.
8. Private boats may offload passengers at the docks, but must moor offshore.
9. Camping allowed only on Grape, Bumpkin, Peddocks, Lovells, and Great Brewster Islands. Permits must be obtained from DEM for Grape, Bumpkin, and Great Brewster, and from MDC for Lovells and Peddocks.
10. Day use permits required for all groups. For Grape, Bumpkin, Gallops, and Great Brewster Islands, call DEM. For Georges, Peddocks, and Lovells Islands call MDC.

CALL FOR PERMITS: DEM: (617) 740-1605
MDC: (617) 727-5250

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District
Commission

Boston Harbor Islands State Park



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WELCOME TO THE BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS!

The Harbor's 30 islands are a wonderful natural resource, only minutes from downtown Boston. Seven of the islands are managed as a unique state park, operated cooperatively by the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC).

Visitors to the park enjoy seashell beaches, flowering meadows, historic forts, hiking paths, picnic and camping areas, birds and wildlife, and spectacular views of the ocean and the Boston skyline! During the summer months resident island managers provide ongoing educational programs and special events.

It's easy to get to the islands. Just take the MBTA Blue Line to Aquarium Station and board a ferry at Long Wharf or nearby Rowes Wharf. Ferry service is also available from Hingham, Hull, and Lynn. The ferries are privately operated and charge a small fee. Most of the ferries transport visitors to Georges Island, which is the hub of DEM's free water taxi service to five other islands.

Day use permits are required for large groups. Permits are also required for camping and for alcohol consumption on some islands. For more information or to obtain permits, contact DEM at (617)740-1605 or MDC at (617)727-5250.

FRIENDS OF THE BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS



Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting preservation of the natural and historic resources of the harbor islands. The group provides volunteer support to assist the agencies which manage the state park. The Friends help out on the islands, and sponsor public education programs, special boat trips, and living history tours. Volunteers and new members are always welcome. For more information call (617)523-8386.



Georges Island

MDC

This 30-acre island is dominated by Fort Warren, which was used to hold Confederate prisoners during the Civil War. Park staff offer guided tours and special programs six months of the year. The island has large picnic areas, a snack bar, and an information booth. A free water taxi to the other islands departs from the pier at Georges on a frequent schedule.

*Gallops Island

DEM

Gallops has a pier with a large gazebo, picnic grounds, and paths through trees, meadows, and remains of residential landscaping. The 16-acre island housed a maritime radio school during World War II, remnants of which are still visible.

Boston Harbor Islands



*Lovells Island

MDC

Visitors to this 62-acre island can enjoy the park's only supervised swimming beach, a picnic area with hibachis and tables, and camp sites. Extensive walking trails run through meadows, dunes, saltmarsh and woods. Pre-World War I gun batteries and other structures remain from Fort Standish.

Peddocks Island

MDC

With 188 acres, Peddocks is one of the largest islands in the harbor, and offers camping and picnic areas. The remains of Fort Andrews occupy much of the island's East Head. The West Head is a fragile salt marsh and wildlife sanctuary. Access beyond the picnic and camping areas is restricted to organized tours and by permission of the island staff.

*Bumpkin Island

DEM

Wildflowers grow along the trails which lead visitors to the remains of an old children's hospital and stone farmhouse. The island's rocky beach is a popular fishing spot, and there are twelve campsites, suitable for group camping, on this quiet 35-acre island.

*Grape Island

DEM

Wild blackberries, bayberries, and rose hips proliferate on Grape Island, providing food for a wide variety of birds and hours of delight for naturalists. The 50-acre island has picnic areas, campsites, and grassy trails.

*Great Brewster Island

DEM

Great Brewster's 23 acres include a long sand spit and tidal pools on a rocky beach. Views of Boston Light and the outer harbor are spectacular. Great Brewster is accessible only by private boat.

Thompson Island

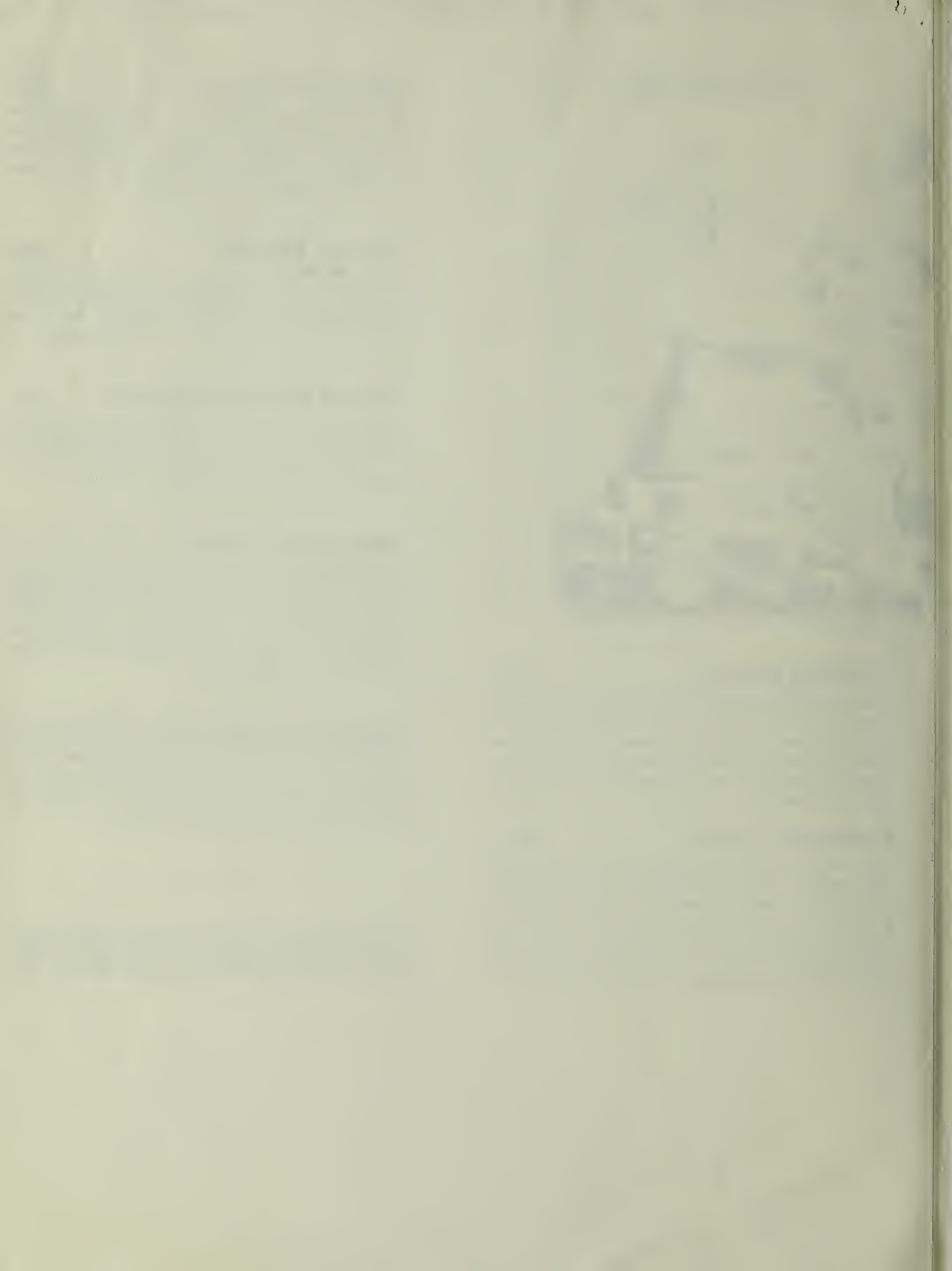
Owned by the Thompson Island Education Center, the island's 157 acres are open on a limited basis for guided tours, hiking and picnicking. The Center offers educational programs and conference facilities, and provides boat transportation to the island. For more information call (617)328-3900.

Webb Memorial State Park

DEM

This 36-acre peninsula in Weymouth features scenic walking trails, harbor vistas, and tables and grills for picnicking. The park is accessible by car. During the 1950s this site served as a Nike missile base.

***PLEASE NOTE:** Fresh water is *not* available on Gallops, Lovells, Bumpkin, Grape, or Great Brewster Islands. Visitors should bring sufficient supplies for their own use.



PARK ACTIVITIES

	Georges	Gallops	Lovells	Peddocks	Bumpkin	Grape	Great Brewster	Thompson	Webb
Swimming beach with lifeguard			•						
Picnic areas	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Trails	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Camping			•	•	•	•	•		
Fishing piers	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Boat piers	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Guided walks	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Information desk	•								•
Refreshment stand	•								•
Primitive toilet facilities	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Handicapped access	•				•			•	•
Access by car									•
Fresh water available	•			•				•	•
Historic fort or ruins	•	•	•	•	•		•		



For group use, camping and other permits, or for more information, contact:

Department of Environmental Management
(617)740-1605

Metropolitan District Commission
(617)727-5250.

DEPARTURE POINTS

Long Wharf in Boston is the main public gateway to the Boston Harbor Islands State Park and is being restored by the Department of Environmental Management, in conjunction with the Boston Redevelopment Authority. Improved maritime facilities will enable more passenger vessels to operate from the wharf. A visitor center will house exhibits about Long Wharf's rich history and the harbor islands, and will provide visitor information for downtown Boston's waterfront area. The wharf is easily reached via the MBTA Blue Line.

Hewitt's Cove in Hingham, site of the Bethlehem-Hingham Shipyard during World War II, is the location of DEM's Park Headquarters. Regular ferry service to the Harbor Islands is available from this location just off Route 3A, as is commuter boat service to Boston. Parking is available.

Lynn's Seaport Landing Marina is adjacent to the **Lynn Heritage State Park** on Route 1A. The five-acre park features a long boardwalk and a shade shelter. The Marina offers paddleboats for hire. Parking is available. The Heritage State Park visitor center, now under development, will feature exhibits and programs about Lynn's history as a world-renowned center of shoe manufacturing.

WHAT IS A ...?

State Park: A facility owned and operated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the enjoyment of state residents and visitors. Massachusetts has the sixth largest state park system in the nation — over 250,000 acres!

Ferry: Boat that carries passengers from the mainland to the islands, for a fee.

Water Taxi: Boat that transports passengers between islands in the park. Free service of DEM for park visitors.

Interpretive program: Any educational talk, historic walking tour, or special event, usually conducted by MDC/DEM island managers or volunteers from Friends of the Harbor Islands.

